

THE HONORABLE BARBARA J. ROTHSTEIN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

DRUT TECHNOLOGIES INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:21-cv-01653-BJR

**STIPULATED
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with Local Civil Rule 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

2. CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

“Confidential Material” shall include the following documents and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged:

(a) materials or testimony containing trade secret information that a party asserts in good faith is subject to protection under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act;

(b) confidential or commercially sensitive business, technical, sales, marketing, personal, or financial information of the producing party (including any party to this action and any non-party producing information or material voluntarily or pursuant to a subpoena or a court order in connection with this action), or information that the producing party is under a legal obligation to maintain as confidential;

(c) bank account numbers, credit card numbers, and other financial information that can be specifically linked to an individual’s or entity’s financial account;

(d) personal identifying information such as an individual’s social security number, personal identification numbers, tax identification number, etc.;

(e) information protected by a written non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement, or otherwise subject to a confidentiality provision by contract;

(f) information protected from disclosure by any state or federal securities law or regulation; and

(g) information protected from disclosure by any court order.

Other categories of Confidential Information may exist.

3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only Confidential Material, but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Confidential Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Confidential Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal Confidential Material.

1 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
2 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

3 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

4 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use Confidential Material that is disclosed
5 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
6 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential Material may be disclosed only to
7 the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential
8 Material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner
9 that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

10 4.2 Disclosure of Confidential Material. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or
11 permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any Confidential
12 Material only to:

13 (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of
14 counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

15 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the receiving
16 party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless a particular document
17 or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only ("AEO") and is so designated;

18 i. Attorneys Eyes Only ("AEO") shall mean that only attorneys working on
19 this matter, including in-house attorneys who have signed the
20 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), may view the
21 information so designated. Others, such as experts and witnesses, may still
22 view information labeled AEO as provided below.

23 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
24 litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

25 (d) the Court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;
26

1 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
2 Confidential Material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service
3 instructs the service not to disclose any Confidential Material to third parties and to immediately
4 return all originals and copies of any Confidential Material;

5 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably
6 necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A),
7 unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
8 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Confidential Material must be separately
9 bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this
10 agreement;

11 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or
12 other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

13 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing Confidential Material or discussing or
14 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,
15 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will
16 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion
17 to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the
18 designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue,
19 and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing
20 the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and
21 the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material
22 under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the
23 requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal.
24 Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with
25 the strong presumption of public access to the Court’s files.
26

1 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

2 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party
3 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take
4 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
5 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,
6 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the
7 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
8 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

9 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
10 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to
11 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses
12 and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

13 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for
14 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties
15 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

16 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
17 agreement, or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for
18 protection under this agreement must be clearly so designated before or when the material is
19 disclosed or produced.

20 (a) Information in documentary form: (*e.g.*, paper or electronic documents and
21 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings),
22 the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains
23 Confidential Material. The designating party may further state if the material is Attorneys' Eyes
24 Only ("AEO"), as provided below. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies
25 for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (*e.g.*, by
26 making appropriate markings in the margins).

1 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties
2 and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial
3 proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony
4 after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the
5 transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or
6 exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect Confidential Material at
7 trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

8 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place
9 on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word
10 “CONFIDENTIAL,” along with any additional tag (*i.e.*, AEO). If only a portion or portions of the
11 information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify
12 the protected portion(s).

13 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
14 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party’s
15 right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a
16 designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated
17 in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

18 5.4 Trade Secrets or Highly Confidential Information. Any Confidential Material
19 disclosed which contains trade secrets or other highly confidential and proprietary information
20 may be designated in writing as “ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY.” Types of information that may
21 be designated as AEO include: (a) proprietary information containing trade secrets; (b)
22 confidential marketing and other sensitive commercial information; and/or (c) private personnel
23 records of persons not party to this action. Other categories of AEO information may exist. The
24 producing party agrees to designate information as “CONFIDENTIAL,” “ATTORNEYS EYES
25 ONLY” on a good faith basis and not for purposes of harassing the receiving party or for purposes
26 of unnecessarily restricting the receiving party’s access to information concerning the lawsuit.

1 Confidential Material which has been previously provided to the non-designating party does not
2 qualify for AEO protections.

3 5.5. Persons Allowed Access to AEO Material. Except as permitted by further order of
4 this Court or by subsequent written agreement of the producing party, disclosure of AEO
5 documents or information, including summaries thereof, but not including documents with the
6 confidential portions redacted, shall be limited to:

7 (a) The parties' in-house counsel, counsel of record, outside counsel, associate
8 attorneys, paralegals and clerical personnel working directly with such counsel on this litigation;

9 (b) Consultants or experts retained by the parties to consult or testify in the case, who
10 have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

11 (c) Any person that a document, on its face, indicates has previously seen, or has been
12 sent the confidential information, such as authors, drafters, recipients and copyholders of the
13 documents or information;

14 (d) Court personnel; and

15 (e) Court reporters performing necessary duties in this action, who have signed the
16 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A).

17 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

18 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
19 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality
20 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
21 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to
22 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
23 original designation is disclosed.

24 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute
25 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential
26 designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration

or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party must:

(a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose Confidential Material may be affected.

8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Confidential Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving

1 party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures,
2 (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the
3 person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement,
4 and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
5 Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

6 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
7 MATERIAL

8 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
9 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
10 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision
11 is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or
12 agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the
13 entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

14 10. NON-TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

15 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving
16 party must return all Confidential Material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts
17 and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of
18 destruction.

19 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
20 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
21 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work
22 product, even if such materials contain Confidential Material.

23 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
24 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.
25
26

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

s/ David A. Perez

David Perez, WSBA #43959
Judith B. Jennison, WSBA #36463
Alison R. Caditz, WSBA #51530
Christian W. Marcelo, WSBA #51193
PERKINS COIE LLP
1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900
Seattle, WA 98101-3099
Tel: (206) 359-8000
Fax: (206) 359-9000
Email: dperez@perkinscoie.com
jjennison@perkinscoie.com
acaditz@perkinscoie.com
cmarcelo@perkinscoie.com

*Attorneys for Defendant
Microsoft Corporation*

s/ David J. Shlansky

David J. Shlansky, MA BBO #565321
(admitted *pro hac vice*)
Colin R. Hagan, MA BBO #684798
(admitted *pro hac vice*)
SHLANSKY LAW GROUP, LLP
1 Winnisimmet Street
Chelsea, MA 02150
Tel: (617) 492-7200
Email: colin.hagan@slglawfirm.com
david.shlansky@slglawfirm.com

s/ Eliot M. Harris

Eliot M. Harris, WSBA #36590
WILLIAMS, KASTNER & GIBBS PLLC
601 Union Street, Suite 4100
Seattle, WA 98101-2380
Tel: (206) 628-6600
Fax: (206) 628-6611
Email: eharris@williamskastner.com
*Attorneys for Plaintiff
Drut Technologies, Inc.*

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

DATED: October 17, 2022



Barbara J. Rothstein
United States District Court Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
_____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of
perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was
issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on October 17,
2022 in the case of *Drut Technologies Inc. v. Microsoft Corporation*, 2:21-cv-01653-BJR.
I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I
understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and
punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner
any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity
except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____